



1

HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the House of Representatives of the  
3 State of Illinois learned with sadness of the death of Robert  
4 Emmet "Butch" McGuire Sr. of Rochester, Minnesota, on  
5 Wednesday, May 17, 2006; and

6           WHEREAS, Mr. McGuire was the owner of Butch McGuire's at 20  
7 W. Division, which was one of America's first singles bars; he  
8 purchased the bar in 1961, and the Near North Side would never  
9 be the same; and

10           WHEREAS, He was born in Beverly, and his father was a  
11 Chicago attorney; he graduated from Morgan Park Military  
12 Academy and the University of Michigan with an engineering  
13 degree, having conquered severe dyslexia; and

14           WHEREAS, In 1985, Mr. McGuire said that 12.5 million people  
15 had come into his bar since 1961, and more than 4,750 marriages  
16 came out of his bar; he was progressive and was one of the  
17 first in Chicago to hire a female bartender; and

18           WHEREAS, He loved the Christmas season and from  
19 mid-November through late January, Butch McGuire's is lit with  
20 more than 250,00 lights; he had model trains that ran on tracks  
21 that hung above the rooms of the bar; and

22           WHEREAS, Mr. McGuire was known for his willingness to help  
23 others; young people often came to him for jobs, and he was  
24 willing to help out; many people got their start at Butch  
25 McGuire's; as a recipient of a donor heart transplant, each  
26 year he and his wife would host a benefit for the American  
27 Transplant Association; and

28           WHEREAS, The passing of Robert Emmet "Butch" McGuire Sr.  
29 has been deeply felt by many, especially his wife of 42 years,

1 Mary Jo (Donovan) McGuire; his children, Laretta Stewart,  
2 Robert Emmet (Bobby) McGuire Jr., and Terrance; and his six  
3 grandchildren; therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
5 NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
6 we mourn the passing of Robert Emmet "Butch" McGuire Sr., and  
7 we extend our deepest sympathy to his family, friends, and all  
8 who knew and loved him; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
10 presented to his family as an expression of our sincerest  
11 condolences.